

**JULY 2013**

## **Department participates in SmartPower Workshop in Greenville, South Carolina**

The South Carolina Department of Insurance participated in a special consumer protection forum Tuesday evening, July, 9, 2013, in Greenville, South Carolina. The free public event hosted by The National Center for the Prevention of Home Improvement Fraud (NCPHIF) provided consumers information about the home repair process and, in particular, the steps one should take when contracting for roofing repairs. More than 35 people attended the workshop that was held at the main location of The Greenville Library from 6:30-8:30 p.m.



The workshop included presentations from local law enforcement and building codes enforcement officials, fraud investigation representatives and insurance company representatives as well as a representative from the SC Department of Insurance. Speakers provided important information about how to enter into contracts with home repair contractors and ways to ensure that they are working with licensed and knowledgeable individuals. They also provided important consumer protection information.

Ann Roberson, the representative from the South Carolina Department of Insurance, discussed the new law that became effective, July 1, 2013, that provides protection to South Carolina homeowners against abusive roofer practices. The new law, H.3409 adds Section 40-59-25 (A)(1) to and amends Section 40-59-110 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The law may be viewed at the following website, [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov).

Ms. Roberson also encouraged everyone to conduct an annual review of their insurance policies and speak with their insurance agent about their current policy and the coverages that they have or might need. Attendees were urged to complete a home inventory cataloging their possessions and to prepare a family disaster plan in the event they are required to evacuate their home. In conclusion, Ms. Roberson advised everyone to prepare a home disaster kit and that they place their important documents in a safe and accessible location.



For more information regarding insurance matters and the services the South Carolina Department of Insurance offers please visit our website, [www.doi.sc.gov](http://www.doi.sc.gov). Should you have questions regarding your homeowner's policy, please call our toll-free number, 1-800-768-3467 for assistance.